

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2014**  
**REGULAR SESSION**

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady,  
Robert McLintock, David Parker

Interim Town Administrator: Gary Stenhouse

Chairman Almeida called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chairman.

**ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK TO PULL BALLOT POSITION FOR TOWN ELECTION**  
**ON APRIL 7, 2014**

Assistant Town Clerk Karen McHugh was in attendance. Positions were drawn as follows:

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

David Andrade  
Jeffrey Starr Mararian  
Nelson Almeida

**LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Lynn Cristino  
Cheryl A. Faria

**PLANNING BOARD**

David Sullivan, Jr.  
Ronald Bennett

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Noah Escaler  
William Woods

Ms. McHugh reminded candidates that March 5, 2014 is the last day to remove their names from the ballot.

**LICENSE HEARING**

**Change of Manager Request for 99 West, LLC located at 821 Fall River Avenue from Cory Spear to Asta Antulonis**

Ms. Antulonis was in attendance. She noted that 99 Restaurants contribute to various organizations in the Town. The restaurant will celebrate 30 years in April.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the change of manager request for 99 West, LLC located at 821 Fall River Avenue from Cory Spear to Asta Antulonis.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Continued Discussion on Warrant for Annual Town Meeting for June 9, 2014**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To table for further discussion at a later date.

**COMMUNITY SPEAKS (FIRST SESSION)**

Chairman of the Senior Center Building Committee David Bowden respectfully requested that the Board appoint a liaison from the Board of Selectmen to the senior center building committee.

The Building Committee will be going before the ZBA for a special permit.

Chairman Almeida felt this is urgent because a purchase and sales agreement is pending.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was

**VOTED;** 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention; To appoint Gary Sagar as the liaison to the senior center building committee.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Abstained.

Mr. Jeffrey Starr Mararian, 116 West Avenue, asked if background and drug testing was done on the new town administrator.

Mr. Stenhouse advised that he had received the background check earlier in the day and he would be discussing with the Board later in the meeting.

Mr. Parker noted that would be held in Executive Session.

Mr. Brady advised that background checks are never discussed with the public.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider and Appoint Christopher Campbell as Director of Communications**

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To appoint Christopher Campbell as Director of Communication, as recommended by the Interim Town Administrator.

Mr. Stenhouse advised that they have not worked out a starting date.

Board members commended Mrs. Lyons on her performance as temporary director.

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the contract with Christopher Campbell, Director of Communication, as negotiated and presented by the Interim Town Administrator.

**Approve Petition from Verizon to Place Two (2) New Joint Stub Poles and Two (2) Joint Anchor Guy Locations on Hope Street for Guying Purposes**

Town Engineer David Cabral explained what was going to be done.

Chairman Almeida felt that a Verizon representative should come before the Board.

Executive Assistant Anne Rogers explained that a representative comes before the Board when it is for a new home.

Mr. McLintock said there are trees on Hope Street that need to be trimmed above the wires.

Mr. Parker noted that it is impossible for Verizon to appear in all communities about a pole but should come if there is another issue.

Mr. Sagar did not see the need if these poles were to support additional infrastructure.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Sagar, and it was

**VOTED:** 4 Ayes; 2 Nays; To approve the petition from Verizon to place two (2) new joint stub poles and two (2) joint anchor guy locations on Hope Street for guying purposes.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Brady- Aye; Mr. McLintock – Nay; Chairman Almeida – Nay.

Chairman Almeida asked to have a representative come in with information on Verizon FIOS.

Mr. Brady said that would be cable but a survey was done and the cost outweighs the benefits.

**Approve Easement for the Installation of One (1) Pole in Private Property at 30 Pine Street for Fire Station**

Mr. Sagar advised that this pole is to service the fire station. He publicly thanked Marcy Reed of National Grid who will donate the pole and do all the work saving the Town thousands of dollars.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To approve the easement for the installation of one (1) pole in private property at 80 Pine Street for the fire station.

The document was signed by Board members and notarized by Ms. Rogers.

**Discussion on MassDOT Right of Way Process for Rte. 114A at Arcade Avenue with Town Engineer**

Mr. Cabral explained that this is a process for the traffic light at 114A and Arcade Avenue which is being done by Mass. DOT. Eleven properties will be impacted. A piece of land owned by the Town across from Grist Mill is a section underwater. Appraisals are being done. Mass. DOT will file a notice of land taking. He referred to the drawings included in the packet.

Chairman Almeida asked if property owners could hire their own appraiser.

Mr. Cabral said they could but it is done by an outside appraiser.

He advised that construction should be advertised by the fall and begin in the spring of 2015.

Mr. McLintock said that Fall River Avenue infringes on the property of the Grist Mill. The outside foundation of the Grist Mill is underneath the highway.

Mr. Cabral said it is not relevant to what he presented. It is on the other side of the street.

Mr. McLintock wanted a larger version of the map.

Mr. Cabral advised this is informational.

Regarding Mr. Sagar's question about potholes, Mr. Cabral said they have taken care of majority from Central Avenue down.

## **Discussion on FY 2015 Budgets with Fire and Police Departments**

### **Fire**

Chief Jack reported that most of the salary line item is contractual with the exception of overtime. He spoke to Mr. Stenhouse and Mr. Alexander regarding the overtime. Additional overtime money will be needed based on the operation of the Banna Fire Station next year.

The operating side of the budget is constant except for vehicle apparatus maintenance. Vehicle tires are costly. A senior firefighter who retired did a lot of preventive maintenance. Five thousand dollars was subtracted from the fire training education line because two individuals hired had completed the paramedic training and it has been paid off.

Fire apparatus testing line item needs more money. Pumps are tested. The ladder truck is almost 30 years old. It is inspected rigorously every year.

The most significant increase is in medical supplies. There is also an increase in securing medications and administration sets. The program that runs the ambulance billing will change in April.

Mr. Sagar would like to see the Banna Fire Station manned 24/7 with full paramedical rescue. He asked if \$100,000 would do that.

Chief Jack said there will be an engine company and paramedic in that station. He will be looking for a new ladder truck. The cost is about \$700,000.

Mr. Parker asked what percentage of emergency calls are from the north end.

Chief Jack said about 15-25%. The south end is considerably more.

Mr. Parker said that is the question he gets from citizens – that the south end gets 50% of the calls and there is no coverage.

Chief Jack noted the average response time to the north end is significantly more than to the south end of the town.

Mr. Brady asked if more calls would be dedicated to the south end when the Banna Fire Station is up and running.

Chief Jack said there is an overlap. The vehicle in the north end does mutual aid. Those communities also come to Seekonk.

The priority is the closest vehicle to where the emergency is. They have been talking about dividing the lines when the Banna Station is up and running to accommodate the need.

Chairman Almeida asked if there were benefits from the rental unit.

Chief Jack said as recently as today they had an incident in the north end. During the peak times, they have people up there.

**Police.**

Chief Craig Mace advised that the Police Department is down six people due to medical reasons, injured on duty and two vacant positions. He is looking to increase wages of current officers. He is hoping to establish a detective sergeant. There are three detectives with no supervisor. The level of service has been the same since the late 80s in terms of staffing. Other line items are per collective bargaining. They do maintain the resource officer in the schools. He looked at historical data and at reducing some line items. They are over budgeted in shift differential right now.

Forty hours per year is required for in service training for officers. They are paying \$60 per person for distance learning. There is no stipend. Overall, he is looking at a 7% increase on the salary side.

On the expense side, a small amount was added for radios. Vehicle repairs are the same. There is an increase in services – medical. He would like to add software for mapping in the Town - \$1,500. He has attended a budgeting class and would like to attend a three-day class. There is a \$2,000 reduction in leases.

Chief Mace said he is very proud of the Seekonk Police Department and the department's reputation in the area. He appreciates the relationship with surrounding towns.

He said he would like to have the Board tell him what he has to do to take care of the police officers and the Town as well.

As a police officer himself, Mr. Brady agreed with the Chief's comments.

Chairman Almeida noted that a resident credited a police officer for saving the life of a family member.

Chief Mace said it is a good cooperative effort with the Fire Department.

Chairman Almeida would like to see a DARE program, particularly at the elementary level.

Chief Mace noted they have the school resource officer. The DARE Program is something of the past. The Police Department has a good working relationship with the School Department.

Chairman Almeida asked about off road vehicles.

Chief Mace he is trying to explore how to do it.

Chairman Almeida asked about panhandling.

Chief Mace said that is not against the law. He said there is a small population of homeless people in the Route 6 area. They do not want to go to a shelter.

Chief Mace said it was an honor and privilege to work with Mr. Stenhouse. He greatly enjoyed his company.

Mr. Stenhouse commended Chief Mace and the department.

Mr. Brady noted that the School Department does have a working budget in progress. They met the deadline.

#### **Discussion on Town Meeting Articles and Votes**

Mr. Brady said there was a lot of discussion and he was glad to see the vote was overwhelming in favor of the senior center.

Mr. McLintock said the people that were there recognized that this has been going on for years with three different committees and it still isn't done.

Chairman Almeida thanked the residents.

#### **Consider Approval of Regular Session Minutes of January 29, 2014**

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Brady, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To accept the Regular Session minutes of January 29, 2014.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Discuss Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman 48 Hours Before the Meeting**

Mr. David Bowden (addressed under Community Speaks).

#### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Stenhouse advised that Mr. Santos will work part time up to 19 ½ hours per week as Building Commissioner. A conditional offer of employment has been made to an individual (32 ½ hours).

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS**

Mr. Sagar asked if the plowing of private roads will be on the next agenda.

Mr. Stenhouse said he e-mailed the legal opinion to all Board members.

Also at the next meeting, Mr. Sagar would like to discuss the Municipal Capital Improvement Committee.

Board members thanked Mr. Stenhouse for serving as Interim Town Administrator. They also thanked Mr. Gould. They felt the selection process was smooth.

Mr. Stenhouse said he enjoyed being here in Seekonk. He noted that the Board got a lot of valuable information from Mr. Keegan.

### **COMMUNITY SPEAKS**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:25 p.m. Mr. Sagar motioned, seconded by Mr. Parker, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session to discuss town administrator contract negotiations for Shawn Cadime, per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 and approve contract for the new town administrator; to reconvene in Open Session to sign contract for Shawn Cadime, if necessary.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

### **RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

#### **Approve Contract for New Town Administrator**

A motion was made by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To execute the three – year contract as amended and agreed upon by the Town of Seekonk and Shawn E. Cadime, effective March 3, 2014.

The vote: Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.



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A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn at 9:13 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye;  
Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael H. Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary